

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 139599

65

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 PM-03 MC-02 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 EB-07 PRS-01 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:P.D.MOLINEAUX:MP

APPROVED BY NEA S. SOBER

DOD/ISA - W. FIFER(SUBS)

DOD/DSAA - GEN. FISH

----- 039394

O 140022Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

RUDODRAGXUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 139599

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAG ASSISTANCE TO YAR MILITARY: SECOND APPROACH

TO PRINCE SULTAN

REF: A) JIDDA 4215; B) SANA 1468; C) SANA 461;

D)SANA 1460; E) JIDDA 4141; F) STATE 122278

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY SANAA CONCERN WITH
DILATORY SAUDI RESPONSE TO U. S. RECOMMENDATIONS ON YAR
ARMS PROGRAM AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF U. S. RECOMMENDATIONS
REFLECTED IN EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTING (REFTELS A AND E).

PARA 2 BELOW GIVES DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 139599

SINCE PRESENTATION OF LETTER. PARA 3 GIVES INSTRUCTIONS

FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS' NEXT MEETINGS WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND OTHER SAUDI LEADERS AND PARA 4 GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSY SANAA. EMBASSIES JIDDA AND SANAA SHOULD PROCEED TO CLARIFY MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAVE ALREADY ARISEN, TO SECURE SAUDI RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED IN LETTER TO SULTAN, AND TO ELICIT SAUDI COMMITMENTS TO SPECIFIC EARLY MEASURES TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.

2. COMMENTS ON ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN SINCE TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN:

A) RELEVANCE OF YAR ELECTIONS TO SAUDI COMMITMENT ON ARMS PROGRAM (REFTELS C, D, E): PRINCE SULTAN'S STATEMENT THAT SAG COULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL AFTER YAR ELECTIONS (REFTEL E) MAY NOT BE CASUISTRY AS SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY SANA (REFTEL C), BUT BASED ON HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING OF YAR POLITICAL SITUATION. DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE THAT YAR HAD INDEED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ANNOUNCED ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE. ALTHOUGH RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTIES AND HAMDI-AHMAR CONTRETEMPS MADE THIS SEEM UNLIKELY, WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT YARG HAD IN FACT DECIDED TO POSTPONE ELECTION UNTIL SANA REPORT OF PREPARATIONS FOR JUNE 13 CELEBRATION (REFTEL D). NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT FULLY CONCURS WITH EMBASSY SANA VIEW (REFTEL C) THAT QUESTION OF ELECTIONS IS IRRELEVANT TO FUTURE COURSE OF YEMENI POLITICS, AND THAT FURTHER DELAY ON ARMS PROGRAM MAY INDEED ADVERSELY AFFECT POSITION OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN SANA.

B) QUESTION OF U. S. PREPAREDNESS TO MOVE PROMPTLY (REFTEL A, PARA 4): WE BELIEVE EXPLICIT USG COMMITMENTS IN LETTER TO SULTAN TO MAKE IMPACT PACKAGE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF SIGNING OF LOA AND 1300 RIFLES WITHIN SIX MONTHS CONSTITUTE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF U. S. READINESS TO PROCEED PROMPTLY. FORMAL USG COMMITMENTS MADE MAY 24 ARE STILL VALID.

C) U.S.-EAG PRIOR AGREEMENT ON ARMS PACKAGES (REFTEL E, PARA 1): WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SAUDIS SHOULD HAVE PROBLEM WITH TRIANGULAR SIGNING AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 139599

OUTLINED IN BASIC LETTER (REFTEL FN PARA 2B), AS IMPLIED BY SULTAN. PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN LETTER IN FACT REQUIRES EXPLICIT AGREEMENT, FOR EACH LETTER OF OFFER, BY USG (BY VIRTUE OF OFFERING LETTER OF OFFER) AND BY SAG (BY VIRTUE OF SIGNING STATEMENT APPENDED TO EACH LETTER OF OFFER, TEXT OF WHICH IS GIVEN IN LETTER.) REQUIREMENT, UNDER U.S. FMS PROCEDURES, THAT YARG SHOULD SIGN ACTUAL LETTERS OF OFFER, CANNOT DETRACT FROM OR

EVEN PRECEDE EXPLICIT USG-SAG AGREEMENT IN EACH CASE.
WE BELIEVE THAT LETTER AND ANTICIPATED SAUDI RESPONSES
WILL CONSTITUTE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT BASIS OF GENERAL
AGREEMENT BETWEEN USG AND SAG, SO THAT WE MAY NOW PROCEED

WITHOUT FURTHER ADO TO PREPARATION OF SPECIFIC LETTERS
OF OFFER IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC SAUDI REQUESTS.

D) RUMOR THAT U. S. PROPOSES EXPENSIVE, LONG LEAD-TIME
EQUIPMENT (REFTEL C, PARA 5); AS STUDY OF CONTENTS OF
LETTER WILL SHOW, USG DOES NOT, AS SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN
SANA TOLD UK AMBASSADOR, PROPOSE "EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT WITH
INORDINATELY LONG LEAD-TIMES". ON THE CONTRARY, SPECIFICS
OF U. S. RECOMMENDATIONS FOCUS ENTIRELY ON BASIC ARMY
EQUIPMENT, WITH REASONABLE LEAD TIMES, LEAVING DISCUSSION
OF MORE EXPENSIVE AND LONGER LEAD-TIME NAVY AND AIR FORCE
ITEMS TO LATER DATE.

EL LACK OF SAUDI SENSE OF URGENCY (REFTEL B AND E);
IN LIGHT OF ABSENCE OF SENSE OF URGENCY ON PART OF PRINCE
SULTAN, AS REFLECTED BOTH IN HIS RESPONSES TO AMBASSADOR
AKINS (REFTEL E) AND IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH YARG DEPUTY
COMMANDER IN CHIEF AL-GHASHMI AT SUEZ CANAL FESTIVITIES
(REFTEL B), IT IS EVIDENT THAT BOTH USG AND YARG NEED TO
PRESS SAG IF ANY ACTION IS TO OCCUR IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. FOR JIDDA: IN YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN,
YOU SHOULD RAISE THE FOLLOWING:

A) PROCEDURE FOR SIGNING LETTERS OF OFFER OUTLINED IN
YOUR LETTER TO HIM CLEARLY PROVIDES FOR PRIOR U. S.-SAG
AGREEMENT ON EACH WEAPONS PACKAGE, PRIOR TO ITS SUBMISSION
TO YARG. REQUIREMENT THAT YARG ITSELF SIGN LETTERS OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 139599

OFFER IS IN RESPONSE TO CONSTRAINTS OF U. S. FMS PROCED-
URES RESTRICTING TRANSFER OF FMS-ORIGIN ARMS TO THIRD
COUNTRIES.

B) U.S. PROPOSES INITIAL AND PROMPT ACTION ON BASIC ARMY
EQUIPMENT NEEDS, AND HOPES SAG WILL AGREE WE SHOULD BOTH
MOVE PROMPTLY TO IMPACT PACKAGE (REFTEL F, PARA 2D)
AS WELL AS OTHER STEPS FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION (REFTEL F,
PARAS 2E AND 2F).

C) YAR ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE CAUSE FOR DELAY IN PROMPT
SAUDI COMMITMENTS AND U. S. RESPONSES, SINCE BASIC PRO-
ARAB AND MODERATE NATURE OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN SANA IS
CLEAR, AND ITS CONTINUATION AFTER ELECTIONS REASONABLY
CERTAIN. IF ANYTHING, CONTINUED DELAY ON ARMS PROGRAM
WILL TEND TO STRENGTHEN LEFTIST OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

REGIMEGM

D) WE EXPECT YOU WILL ALSO WISH PURSUE DIALOGUE WITH
SAUDIS TO ELUCIDATE SAUDI AGREEMENT WITH OR COMMENTS ON

NUMEROUS OTHER POINTS COVERED IN LETTER TO SULTAN. WE
BELIEVE THAT MOST ISSUES THEREIN CAN BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED
AND HOPE THEY CAN BE SETTLED PRIOR TO FORMAL SAUDI
COMMITMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE TO AWAIT PUBLICATION OF SAG
BUDGET IN JULY.

4. FOR SANA: YOU SHOULD:

A) EMPLAIN GENERAL U. S. APPROACH TO YAR LEADERS, I.E.,
INITIAL EMPHASIS ON BASIC ARMY NEEDS. YOU SHOULD ALSO
SEEK TO DISABUSE SAUDI AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS OF NOTION
THAT UNITED STATES IS PROPOSING EXPENSIVE LONG LEAD-TIME
EQUIPMENT.

BL RECALL TO LTC. AL-HAMDI THAT U.S. HAS MADE SPECIFIC
PROPOSAL FOR SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING
ARMS FOR YEMEN, AND THAT WE ARE PURSUING THIS MATTER IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH PRINCE SULTAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, USG
BELIEVES A YAR MILITARY MISSION TO RIYADH IN NEXT FEW
WEEKS WOULD MATERIALLY ASSIST THIS EFFORT. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMED FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE139599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: P.D.MOLINEAUX:MP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750207-0685
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750649/aaaabryu.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JIDDA 4215, 75 SANA 1468, 75 SANA 461
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG ASSISTANCE TO YAR MILITARY: SECOND APPROACH TO PRINCE SULTAN
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, (SULTAN, PRINCE)
To: JIDDA SANAA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006